

REMARKS

The Invention

The present invention generally relates to rakes and, more particularly, to lawn rakes having resiliently flexible tines.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-8, 10-12, 15, 16, 23, 24 and 29 are pending in the application.

Claim 9 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Claims 3-6, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Stapley et al.*

Claim 29 stands allowed.

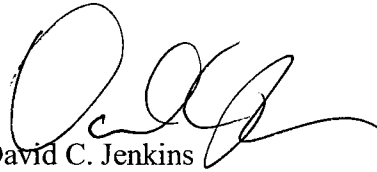
Amendment

Claim 9, which depended from Claim 1, stood objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The recitations of Claim 9 have been incorporated into Claim 1 effectively writing Claim 9 in independent form. Accordingly, Claim 1 should now be found to be allowable. Claims 2-8, 10-12, 15, 16, 23, 24, which depended from Claim 1 are not incompatible with the amended Claim 1 and should be allowable as well.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks above, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in proper form for issuance of a Notice of Allowance and such action is requested at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. C. Jenkins', with a large, stylized initial 'D' and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

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